Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 185980 TOSEC 080167 ORIGIN NODS-00

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WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 185980 TOSEC 080167

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT ALEXANDRIA 0805 SENT ACTIO SECSTATE 06 AUG 77

QUOTE S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0805

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS) EG, US SUBJECT: FAHMY ON PLO STATEMENT

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0798 PARA 4

1. FAHMY ASKED ME COME BY HIS BEACH CABIN LATE THIS AFTERNOON.
RECALLING YOUR DISCUSSION ON PLO PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF UNRES 242
WITH A RESERVATION ON THE REFUGEE ASPECT, HE AGAIN RECOUNTED HIS
TALK OF THREE DAYS AGO WITH ARAFAT AND FIVE MEMBERS OF THE PLO
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN WHICH HE HAD URGED ACCEPTANCE OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 185980 TOSEC 080167

STATEMENT YOU AND HE HAD AGREED UPON. ARAFAT, NOTING A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN WHAT THE SAUDIS HAVE BEEN URGING AND FAHMY'S SUGGESTION, HAD REQUESTED FORTY EIGHT HOURS TO CONSIDER MATTER AND HAD THEREAFTER FLOWN TO SAUDI ARABIA. AFTER CONSULTING AGAIN WITH FAHD, ARAFAT HAD SENT TO FAHMY FOLLOWING PROPOSED PUBLIC STATEMENT:

2. QUOTE HAD RESOLUTION 242 DEALT WITH THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

AS A CAUSE OF A PEOPLE THAT HAS ITS NATIONAL RIGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS TO ESTABLISH ITS STATE IN ITS HOMELAND AND NOT AS A PROBLEM OF REFUGEES, THE PLO WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED IT. UNQUOTE.

- 3. FAHMY CONTENDED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE PROPOSED STATEMENT IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE YOU AND HE HAD AGREED UPON, IT NEVERTHELESS CONSTITUTES PLO ACCEPTANCE OF UNRES 242. WHEN I POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT THE VERY WORDING OF THE STATEMENT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE PLO DOES NOT ACCEPT 242, FAHMY ARGUED THIS IS MERELY A MATTER OF "SEMANTICS". THE STATEMENT, AS HE SAW IT, MAKES IT CLEAR THAT IF THE PALESTINIAN ASPECT OF 242 HAD BEEN CAST AS A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A REFUGEE PROBLEM, THE PLO WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE RESOLUTION. IMPLICIT IN THIS FORMULATION IS ACCEPTANCE OF ALL ASPECTS OF 242 EXCEPT THE REFUGEE ASPECT.
- 4. FAHMY ASKED THAT I SEND THE DRAFT STATEMENT TO YOU AT ONCE AND ELICIT YOUR READING AND COMMENTS. IF YOU BELIEVE THE STATEMENT NEEDS BE CHANGED, HE WILL COMMUNICATE WITH ARAFAT AGAIN.
 ARAFAT, ACCORDING TO FAHMY, IS STANDING BY FOR A CALL TO COME TO CAIRO ONCE AGAIN.

CHASE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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